

Opinion Pieces; Humans aren't as stupid as they seem - something else is blocking climate action, Aug. 25 Will voters punish Liberals for opportunistic election?, Aug. 23 Moore pushes for 90 per cent vaccination rate, Aug. 25 These issues will play key roles in the outcome of the federal election. Here's what you need to know, Aug. 21

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Body

Leaders must get on board with fossil fuel treaty

Humans aren't as stupid as they seem - something else is blocking climate action, Aug. 25

Many thanks to Linda McQuaig for explaining why humans are getting nowhere in tackling climate change; it's the fossil fuel industry forcing us all to do their bidding, "blocking us," regardless of the consequences.

Clearing the blockage is a simple matter of telling our federal candidates that they will win our support only if they pledge to sign and enforce the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, the four pillars of which include an immediate end to all new fossil fuel infrastructure permits, funding and exploration, and a rapid phaseout of use of fossil fuels.

The FFNPT has been endorsed by cities around the world, including Toronto. It's time to get our federal representatives on board.

As McQuaig says: "That's the real choice on the ballot on Sept. 20.

"The rest is just talkety-talk."

Liz Addison, Toronto

So many reasons why election should not have been called

Will voters punish Liberals for opportunistic election?, Aug. 23

We are extremely disappointed that the Liberals have chosen to call an election at this time, given that the opposition parties were not threatening any vote of non-confidence that would have blocked any fair Liberal governing.

Both the Tories and NDP have been very quiet during this COVID-19 period, which was probably the right thing to do.

Why the urgency to hold an election during the very contagious Delta-variant induced fourth wave of the virus?

There are other reasons why this election should not have been called.

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Why did Trudeau break his pledge to fulfil a four-year length of term?

What unannounced agenda items does he have that require a majority Parliament for him to drive them through?

What about the cost of running the election? The estimated price tag of hundreds of millions of dollars could have been spent on more important things, such as addressing the massive shortfall of housing in Ontario.

We are watching the housing market through our own two adult children's eyes. The house bidding wars and prices outside of Toronto are ridiculously far out of reach for most Canadian wage earners.

There is no sign of letup.

Lastly, the election is a distraction from other priorities, of which there are many.

Rick Friesen and Gail Pauling, Milton

Contradictory information baffles this vaccinated senior

Moore pushes for 90 per cent vaccination rate, Aug. 25

In this article, we are told: seniors have the highest vaccination rate; 73 per cent of COVID-19 cases since March have occurred in the 50-and-under age group; the 50-and-under group make up almost 28 per cent of COVID-19 hospitalizations.

We are also told: 27 per cent of cases since March are in the 50-and-older age group; an alarming 72 per cent of the people that are entering hospital for COVID-19 are in the 50-and-over age group; the hospitalized 50-and-over group belong to the highly vaccinated group.

Would some kind medical person explain to this bewildered vaccinated senior how to stay healthy?

Douglas Clarke, Toronto

Climate crisis the most pressing election issue

These issues will play key roles in the outcome of the federal election. Here's what you need to know, Aug. 21

When Justin Trudeau met with the Governor General to dissolve Parliament and call a snap election on Aug. 15, he set into motion the most important election in Canadian history.

Despite calls from scientists around the world about the need to halve carbon emissions by 2030 to mitigate the worst of the climate crisis, emissions continue to climb.

Climate change is the most pressing issue facing Canadians, as well as the most pressing issue in the upcoming election.

Canada needs a government that is willing to act as a climate leader and take immediate and radical action to address the climate crisis.

This election is the call for you to vote for climate leadership.

Will you answer?

Ceileigh McAllister, Climate Reality Project Canada

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